

Derbyshire Shared Lives Scheme

Risk assessment and Risk Management Guidance

Each person using or living in a Shared Lives arrangement has the right to feel safe and secure.

It is important that Shared Lives allocated workers and Shared Lives carers continuously work to identify hazards and assess risks, to take actions to reduce or remove the risks when appropriate and to record discussions and decisions about this.

Providing a person has capacity to make decisions about the way they lead their life, they have the right to:

- choose the risks they want to take
- have the kind of life and experiences that they want, this includes doing things that are important to them and taking healthy risks in a responsible way.

Mental Capacity legislation recognises that we all have the right to make our own decisions, even if others may regard those decisions as “unwise or eccentric”.

If a person's capacity to make decisions that are considered to put them at risk, are in question then an Adult Social Care worker will undertake a Mental Capacity assessment, and a best interest decision will be made.

The rights of a person supported by Shared Lives to take risks responsibly should also be balanced against the well-being of Shared Lives carers and their families or others in the household.

Derbyshire Shared Lives Scheme will:

- Undertake a risk assessment as part of a person's referral and introduction to Shared Lives. A person supported by Shared Lives will be given a copy of any risk assessments which apply to them.
- Review the risk assessment and any risk management plans at least once a year, or more if required. The person who is supported by Shared Lives and/or their representative will take part in the review.
- Undertake a risk assessment of a Shared Lives carer(s) home before they start supporting anyone in a Shared Lives arrangement, by completing a Shared Lives Health & Safety Checklist. Where necessary, the scheme will ensure that any hazards identified in the risk assessment are removed or reduced.
- Complete a Shared Lives Home Safety Check at least once a year.
- Conduct a risk assessment where everyday events and/or activities present a hazard to a person supported by Shared Lives, or to the people around them. Once the Shared Lives scheme have conducted a risk assessment, they will identify how risks can be reduced and put this into a risk management plan where required.

Shared Lives carers will:

- Continuously work to identify hazards and assess risks and report these to the Shared Lives scheme.
- Participate in the creation and review of risk management plans.
- Follow all risk assessments and risk management plans provided.
- Will not unlawfully restrict a person they support, in line with the Mental Capacity Act.